

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
OF THE
ST. ALBANS
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY
FOR THE YEAR 1920,
BY
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ALSO
Report of the Sanitary Inspector and
of the Veterinary Inspector.

ST. ALBANS
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To the Mayor and Corporation of the City of St. Alban.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1920, as Medical Officer of Health for the City of St. Alban.

St. Albans, which is situated on a hill with its steepest side facing nearly south, stands 400 feet above sea level, and is therefore particularly healthy as a residential site.

Though there are patches of clay to be found, the soil of the greater part of the District is gravel resting upon a deep deposit of chalk, from which a very pure and abundant water supply is obtained.

St. Albans is chiefly a residential District, a large proportion of which population go up to London daily. There are, however, a good many factories in the City, and it is considered that these in the near future are likely to increase.

No factories in the district carry on what are known as "dangerous trades," or work which is in any way detrimental to the health of the employees.

There is a general Hospital in the City which contains about 50 beds, on the staff of which there are 8 Hon. Medical Officers besides Hon. Consulting Surgeons.

This Hospital is well patronised and serves a very useful purpose, both for the City and surrounding District. Last year about 450 in-patients were treated, about 600 out-patients attended (with letters of recommendation) and about 780 casualties were treated. In addition nearly 400 patients received treatment under the County Council Scheme for removal of tonsils and adenoids.

Bricket House, besides being a thoroughly up-to-date Nursing Home for paying patients, is the headquarters of the St. Albans and District Nursing Association.

Under the supervision of a Matron this Association employs 3 District Nurses and 3 Midwives who do invaluable and much appreciated work in the City and surrounding District.

Some 200 to 300 maternity cases are attended annually, and, in addition, during the last year nearly 6,000 visits have been paid to the sick poor in their own homes.

Area and Population.

According to the Census of 1911, the population of St. Albans was 18,132 persons, and at that time the area of the City was 997 acres, 1 rood, 13 poles.

Area.—On November 9th, 1913, the boundaries of the City were extended, whereby 1698 acres were added, and the total area of the City now comprises 2695.715 acres.

Population as given by the Registrar General : 25,824.

The number of inhabited houses is estimated as 5,928.

Twenty-two new houses were erected during the year.

Vital Statistics.

Births.—The total number of Births registered during the year was 562, consisting 280 of males and 282 females.

From this must be deducted 12 males and 10 females who though born in the District do not belong to the District, and to this number must be added 9 males and 4 females who though belonging to the District were born outside the District.

This gives the total number of Births belonging to the District as 553 (277 males and 276 females). 29 of these (13 males and 16 females) were illegitimate. This, with a population of 25,824, gives a Birth rate for the year of **21.41** per 1,000 population.

The Birth rate for the year 1919 was 13.41.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered in the District during the year was 253, which, with a population of 25,824 gives a gross Death rate for the year of 9.79 per 1,000 population.

36 of these Deaths took place in St. Albans Hospital, 11 of which did not belong to this District; 4 took place in the Sisters' Hospital, 2 of which did not belong to this District; and 68 took place in the Union Infirmary, 29 of which did not belong to this District.

There were also 4 other Deaths which, though taking place in this District, do not belong to this District, making a total of 46 Deaths of non-residents to be deducted.

There were 26 Deaths of residents which, though belonging to this District, were registered outside the District, and have therefore to be included.

This gives the total number of Deaths belonging to the District as 233, consisting of 120 males and 113 females, which, with a population of 25,824, gives a Death rate for the year of **9.02** per 1,000 population.

The Death rate for the year 1919 was 10.75.

The excess of Births over Deaths during the year is 320.

Infants Deaths.—There were 14 Deaths registered of Infants under one year of age.

There was also one Death which though belonging to this District, was registered outside the District and has to be included.

The total number of Deaths therefore of Infants under one year of age belonging to the District is 15 (12 of which were males and 3 females). 1 male and 1 female were illegitimate.

This gives a Death rate for the year of **27** per 1,000 nett Births.

The Infant Death rate for the year 1919 was 40 per 1,000 nett Births.

**Table of Vital Statistics for whole District,
shewing each Ward separately.**

WARD.	Births.			Deaths.			Infant Deaths.			Infant Death Rate per 1000 Births.
	M	F	Totals	M	F	Totals	M	F	Totals	
North Ward ...	89	85	174	35	41	76	2	1	3	17
South Ward....	137	128	265	56	53	109	8	2	10	37
East Ward ...	51	63	114	29	19	48	2	...	2	17
Totals ...	277	276	553	120	113	233	12	3	15	27

The following table gives the Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., for the year 1920, from which it will be seen that though the Birth rate in St. Albans is low, our Death rate compares most favourably with other parts of the country, and especially so our Infant Death rate.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales	25·4	12·4	80
96 Great Towns, including London ... Populations exceeding 50,000 at Census of 1911.	26·2	12·5	85
148 Smaller Towns Populations from 20,000 to 50,000 at Census of 1911.	24·9	11·8	80
London	26·5	12·4	75
St. Albans City	21·41	9·02	27

Mortality Table for Year 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...
Small Pox ...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	2	...	2
Diphtheria and Croup ...	2	1	3
Influenza ...	1	4	5
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	11	7	18
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1	2	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	17	16	33
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	1	2
Meningitis ...	...	1	1
Organic Heart Disease ...	20	28	48
Bronchitis ...	13	4	17
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	6	5	11
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	2	3
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	1	1
Alcoholism ...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	4	3	7
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, &c. ...	6	1	7
Violence, apart from Suicide ...	4	1	5
Suicide ...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ...	31	35	66
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	...	...	...
All Causes ...	120	113	233

Infant Mortality during the Year 1920.

Infectious Diseases.

109 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, as follows:—

- 29 Diphtheria (25 of which were removed to the Sisters' Hospital).
- 49 Scarlet Fever (44 of which were removed to the Sisters' Hospital).
- 1 Enteric Fever.
- 14 Malaria
- 4 Pneumonia.
- 1 Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
- 10 Erysipelas.
- 1 Encephalitis Lethargica.

There were no cases of Small-pox, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis or Poliomyelitis.

**Table of Infectious Diseases during 1920,
showing month of incidence.**

DISEASE.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Totals.
Diphtheria ...	6	8	2	1	4	1	3	...	1	...	1	2	29
Scarlet Fever ...	6	5	7	6	1	...	...	4	5	12	...	3	49
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Malaria ...	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	2	..	14
Pneumonia ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Encephalites Lethargica ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas ...	1	2	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	2	10
Totals ...	17	17	15	10	6	3	5	5	6	15	3	7	109

Infectious Diseases.

DISEASES.	Total.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.
Diphtheria ...	29	8	10	11
Scarlet Fever ...	49	20	8	21
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	1
Malaria ...	14	7	4	3
Pneumonia ...	4	2	2	...
Encephalites Lethargica ...	1	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	...	1
Erysipelas ...	10	3	3	4
<hr/>				
Totals ...	109	41	27	41
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	34	12	11	11
„ other forms ...	5	4	1	...
<hr/>				
Totals ...	148	57	39	52

Diphtheria.

As will be seen in the preceding table, notifications were received during every month except August and October.

Four of the cases were directly due to a previous case in the house, but the others all occurred sporadically, having no connection with each other, and were chiefly contracted outside the City area.

Scarlet Fever.

As will be seen in the preceding table, notifications were received every month except June, July and November.

In January, a man was discovered peeling while at work in a factory. 2 cases were directly traced to this man.

In March, 4 cases were directly connected with one of the Schools in the City.

In April, 4 of the cases were probably connected with each other.

In October there were 12 cases. There were 4 in one house responsible for 3 other single cases, and 3 in another house.

Several of the cases during the year were contracted outside the City area mostly when on holiday in August and September.

In all cases the illness was very mild, and no doubt there were several unrecognised cases which were a source of infection.

Enteric Fever.

There was one case notified in January, that of a child who had returned to School from Liverpool, where the disease was contracted.

Malaria.

There were 14 cases of Malaria notified during the year, all of which were imported, that is, contracted abroad.

Pneumonia.

Four cases of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified, 2 in March and 2 in April.

Measles.

There were a few cases of Measles, chiefly during the early part of the year, but nothing in the nature of an epidemic.

Tuberculosis.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, 39 new cases were notified, 34 of which were pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary.

I am indebted to Dr. E. C. Sparrow, Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer, for the following information as to the work done at the St. Albans Dispensary during the year 1920 :—

Number of days Dispensary open	...	49
Number of attendances of Patients	...	973
Number of Patients attending	...	125
Number of visits to Patients	...	203

The following figures relate to Patients residing in the City and Rural District who were seen for the first time in 1920 :—

Cases not fit for Sanatorium and therefore treated either at home or in Hospital	...	33
Cases treated at Sanatorium	...	18

In addition, 26 suspected cases were seen, 24 of which, after observation, were found not to be infected.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

One case was notified in February. It is satisfactory to report that this patient has almost completely recovered.

Preventive Measures.

The Sisters' Hospital for Infectious Diseases comprises the following :—

The Scarlet Fever block with an accommodation of 30 beds which has provided sufficient accommodation for all the Scarlet Fever cases. This block also contains 2 wards of 3 beds each, set apart for Cerebro-Spinal Fever cases.

The Diphtheria block, with an accommodation of 12 beds, has provided sufficient accommodation for all the Diphtheria cases.

The Small-pox Hospital at Cherry Tree Farm, with an accommodation of 12 beds, which is in charge of a caretaker and his wife, who keep it in such a state as to be ready for a patient at the shortest notice, has not been required during the year.

These 2 Hospitals we share with the authorities of St. Albans Rural District and Harpenden Urban District.

The Hospital Committee have, at the request of the Hatfield Rural District Council, given me authority to admit cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria from the Hatfield District whenever there is ample accommodation.

During the year 68 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Sisters' Hospital, 44 of which belonged to the City, 9 to the Rural District, 9 to Harpenden, and 6 to Hatfield. Forty-three cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Hospital, 25 of which belonged to the City, 9 to the Rural District, 8 to Harpenden, and 1 to Hatfield.

One case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever was removed to the Hospital which belonged to Harpenden.

At the Sisters' Hospital there is a Thresh's Steam Disinfector where bedding and clothes may be disinfected. This is practically always done in cases of Scarlet Fever, Small-pox, etc., and frequently done after such illnesses as Consumption and Cancer. This work is done by the porter at the Hospital.

Formaldehyde is the disinfectant almost universally used in this District, but, in addition, every room is thoroughly cleansed with soap, water and fresh air, and, where necessary, whitewashed and papered. This work is done under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Arrangements are made by this Council with the Clinical Research Association and the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examinations to be made at the expense of this Council.

I have received during the year 52 reports from them, as follows:—

Forty-two on Swabs examined for Klebs Loeffler Bacilli for Diphtheria, 6 of which were positive and 36 negative.

Two on Widals' Blood Test for Typhoid Fever, which were negative.

Seven on Sputum examined for Tuberclle Bacilli, 2 of which were positive and 5 negative.

One on Blood examined for Malaria, which was negative.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is in all suitable cases supplied at the expense of this Council.

Vaccination.

It is for obvious reasons impossible at this date to give any accurate Vaccination returns for the year ending December, 1920.

The following figures therefore are given for the 12 months ending June 30th, 1920, and have been supplied to me by Mr. Rogers, the Vaccination Officer:—

During this period there were 517 children born in the City, 8 of which died in infancy without being vaccinated. Of the remaining 509, only 109 have been vaccinated, that is 21 per cent.

19 have gone away from the District before being vaccinated.

12, though having no Exemption Certificate, are reported as unvaccinated, and

369 Conscientious Objection Certificates were granted.

As Assistant School Medical Officer I find that only 29 per cent. of the children inspected during 1920 were vaccinated, and that of the children under 6 years of age only 22 per cent. were vaccinated.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by me under the (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Public Elementary Schools.

There are 15 Public Elementary Schools in the City, of which 6 are Church of England Schools, 1 is a Roman Catholic School, and 8 are County Council Schools.

All these Schools receive their Water Supply from the St. Albans Water Works Company's Mains.

The following are extracts from my Annual Report to the School Medical Officer for the County :—

Heating.—Central heating is the only really satisfactory method of uniformly heating the large schoolrooms. Open grates as at present existing in the majority of Schools are insufficient.

A satisfactory system is now being installed at the Camp Schools, but I should like to point out that no radiators are fixed in the cloakrooms, which is, in my opinion, a great mistake, as in wet weather this would allow the children's clothes to dry while in School.

The Central Heating system which covers the whole of the Abbey Boys' School and a portion of the Girls, is old, and absolutely and entirely inadequate.

Lighting.—In a few of the Schools the lighting is bad, in some it is scarcely sufficient, but in most it is good, although the desks cannot always be arranged to the best advantage.

Ventilation.—Most of the Schools are capable of adequate ventilation, but in a number of cases the ventilators are hand-worked, and the amount of ventilation depends on the discretion of the individual teacher.

It would be advisable either to have all present ventilators permanently fixed open, or in those cases where this would mean a draught, to have ventilators of the Boyle type.

Sanitary Arrangements.—The Sanitary arrangements in the Schools as a whole, are satisfactory, although in some Schools the offices are more up-to-date than in others.

The arrangements at the Abbey Schools are distinctly bad, but I am afraid any satisfactory alteration would mean considerable expenses.

School Closure.—The following Schools were closed during the year :—

Garden Fields Infants, for Measles, from 22nd to 31st January.

Bernard's Heath Infants, for general illness, from 4th to 14th February.

Camp Infants, for Measles, from 16th February, for 1 week.

St. Peter's Infants, for Measles, from 29th March, for 3 days.

Alma Road Infants, for Measles, from 20th to 24th September.

Spread of Infection.—I should like to repeat the warning which I gave in my report last year against the habit which prevails in a large number of schools of collecting in a common box all the articles used by the children such as pens, pencils, paint brushes, chalks and plasticine, instead of allowing each child to have a separate box of its own to keep these articles in.

In all cases it is important, but especially so in the case of an infants' class, that these articles should be kept separate for each child, as it is impossible to prevent the children from putting their pencils, etc., in their mouths, and this is not uncommonly the cause of the spread of infection.

At present there are only 3 Infant Schools where pencils and plasticine are kept in separate named boxes.

In 3 Schools the pencils are mixed and common property, the plasticine being kept separate for each child.

In one School the reverse order is observed, pencils being kept separate and the plasticine mixed.

In 2 Schools the pencils and plasticine are mixed, and are common property.

Other important and often overlooked causes of spread of infection are handkerchiefs and slates. Only about half the children have handkerchiefs of their own, and these are frequently lent to a neighbour, an obvious possible cause of infection.

Slates are used in every Infant School, and in most cases they are the common property of the class and are not kept separate for each child. With few exceptions, no proper rubber for cleaning the slates is kept, and the children either clean the slates with their handkerchiefs or coat sleeves or fingers, having previously wetted the slate with saliva.

I should like to suggest that all slates are discarded as soon as possible, and until they are done away with, that proper rubbers are provided for each child.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

I am indebted to Dr. Helen Swatman, County Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, for the following report on the work of the St. Albans Centre for the year 1920.

This Centre was held during the greater part of the year at the Friends' Meeting House, as previously, but at the beginning of November the Hertfordshire County Council were able to rent rooms at the St. Peter's Institute, and the Centre is now held there, where the accommodation is ample, though for various causes the warming arrangements have proved insufficient during the cold weather.

The number of children attending the centre has been less than in 1919. This is partly due to the fact that with the limited space available at the Friends' Meeting House it was considered advisable to rather discourage the mothers frequent

attendances, and partly because the mothers have had to get accustomed to the change to the new premises and to the necessary change to a less convenient day. The H.C.C. can only obtain the use of the Institute on a Monday, so that the day for the centre had to be changed to that from the more popular Wednesday.

The actual numbers on the register were :

- (a) Expectant mothers, 19.
- (b) Children under five years old, 580.

The number of attendances made by these children was 4,087 : an average attendance of 80 each time the Centre was open.

The number of deaths among the children was 3 (half the number of 1919), all due to bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia, in one case complicated with convulsions.

The general health of the children has improved, and there has been no epidemic necessitating the closure of the Centre.

Of the 580 who attended, there were 103 suffering from defects or ailments other than diarrhoea, malnutrition, bronchial or digestive troubles, as follows :—

Anæmia 2, adenoids 2, abscess 1, blepharitis 4, boils 1, cyanosis 1, cataract 1, convulsions 1, cyst 1, eczema and impetigo 10, large glands 4, hernia-inguinal 6, umbilical 16, jaundice 1, infantile paralysis 1, mental defectiveness 1, malformations 1, ophthalmia 1, otorrhœa 6, phimosis 17, pemphigus 1, rickets 7, strabismus 3, stomatitis 3, snuffles 1, T.B. 1, large tonsils 4, undescended testicle 1, vermes (intestinal) 4.

From the above list it will be seen that the number of cases of rickets was only 7, against 17 in the previous year.

Eight children had massage treatment under the scheme of the H.C.C.

Several nursing mothers and children under five years old were sent to the Convalescent Home at St. Leonard's specially arranged for such.

A large number of mothers have had grants of milk from the H.C.C. either free or at half-cost.

The Centre owes a great deal to the voluntary workers—ladies who come regularly, week by week, and give such valuable help.

General Sanitation.

Water Supply.—The City receives its water supply from the St. Albans Water Company. This Company has 2 pumping stations:—

1. The Stone Cross Pumping Station, the original one at the top of St. Peter's Street, where they have 2 wells 196 feet and 204 feet deep respectively, both going into the chalk with headings driven out at a length of about 800 feet. The pumping capacity at this station is 40,000 to 60,000 gallons per hour. This pumping station is now only used occasionally.

2. The Holywell Pumping Station, where there are 3 wells 160 feet deep, going into the chalk, lined with steel tubes to a depth of 55 feet. The pumping capacity of the three pumping engines at these works is respectively 80,000, 40,000 and 25,000 gallons per hour.

For a more complete report on the composition of the water see last year's report.

Sewerage.—For a full report on the sewerage of this City I refer you to my report for last year, with the following exceptions:—

On page 26, the 17-ft. sedimentation tank has a capacity of 251,000 gallons, and not 21,000 as stated in that report.

Two new sedimentation tanks have been added, and on the bottom of page 26 it should read as follows:—The effluent from the first sedimentation tank passes through four other sedimentation tanks which have a total capacity of 266,000 gallons.

Of the supplementary works for the purpose of dealing with the sewage from the East Ward, the following have been completed:

Three circular primary filters, 116 feet in diameter.

Three circular secondary filters, 112 feet in diameter.

Three humus tanks of the Dortmund type.

The sedimentation and septic tanks are well in hand, but are being held up at present for special cast iron pipes.

The construction of circular filters on the contact bed site is also well in hand.

The Sewage Disposal Works are under the care of Mr. Eade, a most capable manager, who not only always keeps the farm the perfection of tidiness, but has proved himself to be a thorough master of every detail of sewage disposal.

The Works were visited during the year by the Mayor and Corporation of Henley-on-Thames. They spoke very highly of the system of treatment and of the condition of the works.

The present sewerage system in the East Ward is by dumb wells, which are emptied as occasion arises. On the whole it is fairly satisfactory for the present, but there are a certain number of dumb wells in this part of the City which are, from time to time, a nuisance. This Ward will, I hope, before long, be joined up to the sewerage system.

Closet Accommodation.—With the exception of a very few earth closets which are still in existence, and are emptied by the occupiers, the whole of the City has water closet accommodation.

Ashes and Refuse.—This work is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, who has a staff of 9 men and a foreman.

In the central part of the City there is a daily collection of shop refuse, and in all parts of the City there is a weekly collection of ashes and refuse, which is taken to the destructor provided by the North Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, and there satisfactorily dealt with.

The 6 carts used for conveying the refuse are always covered, and no complaints have been received of any nuisance arising from their passing through the streets.

The Sanitary Inspector pays special attention to all back yards and premises attached to the poorer parts of the town during the summer months, and all collections of refuse are immediately removed.

Factories and Workshops.

The Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901, which came into force on 1st January, 1902, imposes on every Sanitary Authority the duty of keeping a Register of Workshops. Such Register is kept, and is up-to-date. Lists of Home-workers have been received twice during the year and these lists are preserved. Only one case of a notifiable disease occurred in the home of an outworker during the year.

There are 92 Factories, 154 Workshops and 37 Workplaces in the City.

The following Table shows the number and nature of employment in Factories and Workshops in the City :—

Trade	Factories	Work-shops	Work-places	Total
Straw Goods	9	0	1	10
Engineers	11	0	0	11
Printers	7	1	0	8
Carpenters	9	17	0	26
Brewery	1	0	0	1
Builders	3	7	0	10
Flour Mills	2	0	0	2
Laundries	6	6	0	12
Bakehouses	4	26	0	30
Cycle Works	7	9	0	16
Boot Makers and Repairers	2	10	0	12
Brush Makers	1	0	0	1
Gas Works	1	0	0	1
Water Works	2	0	0	2
Silk Works	1	0	0	1
Electric Works	1	0	0	1
Mineral Waters	1	0	0	1
Wire Works	1	0	0	1
Bleach Works	2	0	0	2
Saw Mills	2	0	0	2
Hatters' Stitchers, Printers	1	0	0	1
Plumbers, Decorators	0	21	0	21
Milliners, Dressmakers	0	18	0	18
Blacksmiths	0	6	0	6
Tailors	2	10	0	12
Watch and Clock Repairers	0	6	0	6
Saddlers	0	3	0	3
Restaurants	0	0	9	9
Monumental Masonry	0	3	0	3
Cardboard Box Makers	2	2	0	4
Seed Packers	0	0	3	3
Stabling	0	0	16	16
Basket Makers	0	1	0	1
Photographers	0	4	0	4
Stained Glass Works	0	1	0	1
Billposting	0	0	1	1
Builders' Stores	0	0	3	3

Trade	Factories	Work-shops	Work-places	Total
Arc Lamps ..	... 1	0	0	1
Musical Instruments ..	... 1	0	0	1
Tyres ... ..	... 1	0	0	1
Dye Works ..	... 1	0	0	1
Aeronoid Works ...	... 1	0	0	1
Hosiery Works ...	... 2	0	0	2
Velour Hat Makers ..	... 1	0	0	1
Brick and Block Makers ..	... 2	0	0	2
Chronometer Maker ..	... 1	0	0	1
Electric Plating ...	... 1	0	0	1
Vulanising ...	... 0	1	0	1
Doll Maker ... ..	... 0	1	0	1
Motor Steel Metal Works ...	... 0	1	0	1
Orchid Works ... ..	... 0	0	1	1
Florists ... ..	... 0	0	2	2
Agriculture Seed Cleaners ...	... 1	0	0	1
Hat Packers ... ..	... 0	0	1	1
Edible Fat Manufacturer ...	... 1	0	0	1
	—	—	—	—
	92	154	37	283
	—	—	—	—

P.S.—Under the heading of "Carpenters" are included Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers, Wheelwrights, Coachbuilders, Motor Body Builders and Wood Workers.

There is no overcrowding in any Workshop or Workplace in the City. All Workshops and Workplaces are well ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary state.

Every Factory and Workshop has suitable conveniences with separate convenience for each sex.

There are 28 Factories and 1 Workplace which employ more than 40 persons.

Eleven lists were received during the first half-year, including 186 outworkers doing straw hat work, 18 doing brush work, 3 doing tailoring, and 2 in the boot trade.

Ten lists were received during the second half-year, including 144 outworkers doing straw hat work, 19 doing brush work, 3 doing tailoring and 2 in the boot trade.

During the first half of the year, 3 lists, including 4 names of outworkers, and during the second half of the year, 3 lists, including 3 names of outworkers, all doing straw hat work, were sent to the respective authorities of the district in which they lived.

During the first half of the year, 3 lists, including 3 names, 1 doing shoe work, and 2 in the tailoring trade, and during the second half of the year, 2 lists, including 5 names, 4 in the shoe trade, and 1 in the tailoring trade, were received from other authorities.

Food.

Milk Supply.—As will be seen on page 38, 49 samples of milk have been sent to the Public Analyst during the year, 3 of which were reported on adversely. For particulars of these see Report of Sanitary Inspector on page 38.

As will be seen in the report of the Veterinary Inspector, 6 samples of milk have been sent for microscopical examination for diagnosis of tuberculosis of the udder, all of which proved negative.

I regret to say that on the plea of economy the Milk Bill is probably deferred indefinitely. I would however urge that the Tuberculosis Order, 1913, which was repealed in 1914, be again put into force. It would very considerably safeguard the milk supply of the country and is not, I understand, an expensive Order to work.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.—These regulations are designed to secure that no thickening shall be added to cream or preserved cream, and that no preservatives shall be added to milk or to cream containing less than 35 per cent. by weight of milk fat.

The regulations allow that to cream containing over 35 per cent. of milk fat, boric acid or borax, or hydrogen peroxide may be added, provided that an adhesive declaratory label is attached to the receptacle containing cream. Such label should be of a certain size printed in black type of not less than a certain size on a white ground, and be placed in an unobscured position on the receptacle. By the regulations of 8th Feb., 1917, it must be stated on this label "not suitable for infants and invalids" and also the preservative used, and in the case of boric acid and borax the maximum amount per cent. of these substances contained in the preserved cream.

Under these regulations, 49 samples of milk and 2 samples of cream were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year. These were all free from preservatives and therefore conformed to the requirements of the regulations.

Of the two samples of cream one contained 60 per cent. fat and the other 27.47 per cent. fat.

In addition, two samples of preserved cream were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year.

One of them contained 0.26 per cent. boric acid and 51.6 per cent. fat, and the other contained 0.29 per cent. boric acid and 44.2 per cent. fat. Both of these samples were marked with the necessary label and therefore complied with the requirements of the regulations.

All these samples were submitted simultaneously under the Milk and Cream Regulations and Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order, 1918.—The provisions of this Order are carried out by the Hertfordshire County Council in connection with their Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

During the year, under these Acts, 72 samples were taken for analysis: 49 of milk, 2 each of cream, preserved cream, butter, margarine, Glauber salts, Epsom salts and vinegar, and one each of camphorated oil, liquorice powder, golden syrup, strawberry jam, rice, sago, demerara sugar, cocoa and lard.

The Public Analyst reported that 67 of these were genuine and 5 not so.

For full particulars with regard to these 5 samples see report of Sanitary Inspector on page 38.

Bakehouses.

There are no wholesale Bakehouses in the City. Under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, no underground bakehouse must be used after January 1st, 1904, without the written permission of the Sanitary Authority. There are five such underground Bakehouses in the City, all of which have received the necessary permission of the Council. At the present moment two or three of these are not in use.

There are 30 Bakehouses in the City, four of which are factories. Five of these are not in use at the present moment, though one was in use for a few weeks during the year.

All are kept in a clean condition and are limewashed at least once in every six months.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 12 registered slaughter houses in the City. These have been regularly and frequently visited by the Inspector of Nuisances. All are kept clean and in good order and properly drained. All are owned and used by local butchers, and all but 2 claim to be pre 1875.

In two cases the slaughter house, though a slaughter house within the definition of the Public Health Act, 1875, is nothing more than a yard, and a few of them, owing to their position, are unsuitable for the purpose of slaughtering, but on account of their being in existence previous to the year 1875, this Corporation has no power to deal with them unless they are a nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1875.

The Veterinary Inspector visits the slaughter houses by request for the inspection of carcases, but there is no regular inspection of meat at the time of slaughter.

There is no public abattoir in the City.

The Market Stalls have been regularly inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances and by the Veterinary Inspector.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

Dairies.—There are 13 dairies in the City, 5 of which are attached to cowsheds. All have been visited during the year and no defects have been found. All are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition, and all have an ample water supply.

Cowsheds.—The number of cowsheds on register during the year 1920 is 10. These have all been visited at least once in each quarter by the Veterinary Inspector. The approximate number of cows in these sheds is 130.

Milkshops.—There are 18 milkshops in the City, all of which are clean and well conducted.

Lodging Houses.

There is only one registered common lodging house in the City. It is frequently visited by the Inspector of Nuisances who reports it to be well managed and in good order.

Housing.

STAFF.

DUTIES.

Engineer and Surveyor.

Architect, Planning and construction of new houses under Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919.

Inspector of Nuisances.

Inspections under Public Health Acts and Housing and Town Planning Acts.

There are 5,936 houses in the City, of which 3,626 are for the working classes.

There are 10 new houses for the working classes in course of erection.

There is undoubtedly a considerable amount of overcrowding in the City which only time will remedy.

With reference to overcrowding I wish the Public Health Acts were extended in order to give power to deal with the proper separation of the sexes.

Generally speaking, the standard of houses in the City is decidedly good. There are no areas which can be represented as unhealthy areas and there are no areas which, in my

opinion, must be dealt with by improvement or reconstruction schemes, and there is no area which contains a large proportion of seriously defective houses. There are six houses certainly, and perhaps a few more, which will require to be demolished in the near future, but these are scattered about the City in twos or threes and do not in any way represent an unhealthy area. There are numerous houses in different areas of the City which, although in fair sanitary condition, in my opinion fall below the ultimate standard at which we should aim.

At the present time it is impossible to entertain any idea of dealing in any way with these areas.

There are some properties which no doubt could be considerably improved, but there are very considerable difficulties in getting improvements effected. All building is very costly; the landlord is not allowed to increase the rent and is naturally loath to spend money for which he can get no return. If the matter is pressed it would probably be an advantage to the landlord to close the houses, and if the houses were closed the landlord could, in many cases, let the buildings as a warehouse at a higher rental than he is now receiving.

There are no bye-laws relating to lodgings, tents or vans.

Under our present bye-laws no wooden buildings are permissible except for the purpose of a plant-house, summer-house, poultry-house, or aviary, and these shall be wholly detached and ten feet from any other building, and they shall not be heated by other than hot water.

Our present bye-laws relating to houses work satisfactorily and do not require relaxing except perhaps with regard to materials for external walls and buildings.

Housing and Town Planning Acts.

Under the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, 398 visits have been paid and 133 houses inspected, situated as follows :—

19 Oster Terrace.	48 Oster Street
20 Thornton Street	46 Portland Street

In explanation of the working of the Act I should like to point out that a defect in any house let to a new tenant after the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, can be dealt with under Section 15 of the Act, in a manner similar to that under the Public Health Act, 1875. But a defect in a house let to a tenant previous to the passing of the Act cannot be dealt with under Section 15, and has to be dealt with under Section 17 (sub-section 2), which means that the defect cannot be dealt with under the Act unless the defect is such that it renders the dwelling so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

The following sanitary defects therefore, 292 in number, have been dealt with and remedied under the Public Health, 1875 (for which 42 informal notices were served), as shown in the following table.

Floors defective	...	...	...	...	9
Ceilings and walls defective and cleaned					36
Roofs defective	...	...	...	...	44
Spoutings and down pipes defective					12
Ventilation improved	...	...	...		6
Window fasteners and cords defective	...				65
W.C.'s, drains, cisterns defective	...				58
Water taps defective	...	...	...		5
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...		1
Dustbins defective...	...	...	...		13
Copper fireplaces defective	...	...	...		5
W.C.'s seats and doors broken	...	...	...		20

Treads of stair (inside) broken	...	...	3
Windows defective	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	6
			<hr/>
	Total	...	292
			<hr/>

No closing orders and no demolition orders were made, but 2 dwelling houses have been voluntary demolished.

There are no obstructive buildings in the City.

Adoptive Acts.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the City :—

- The Public Libraries Act.
- The Baths and Wash-houses Acts.
- The Infectious Diseases Notification Act 1889.
- The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (with the exception of Part 4).
- The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890.
- The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, Part II. (Streets and Buildings).
- Part III., sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51 (Sanitary Provisions).
- Part IV. (Infectious Diseases).
- Part V. (Common Lodging Houses).
- Part VI. (Recreation Grounds).
- Part VII., sections 79, 81 and 86 (Police).
- Part VIII. (Fire Brigade).
- Part IX. (Sky Signs).
- Part X., sections 92, 93, 95 (Miscellaneous).

The Museums and Gymnasium Act 1891, and the Private Street Works Act 1892, and the Notification of Births Act 1907, have not been adopted.

Byelaws and Regulations.

The following Byelaws and Regulations are in force in the City :—

1. New Streets and Buildings.
2. Nuisances.
3. Slaughter Houses.
4. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.
5. Cleansing of Footways and Pavements.
6. Common Lodging Houses.
7. Good Rule and Government.
8. Employment of Children Act 1903.

Appended are the reports of the Sanitary Inspector and Veterinary Inspector.

I am indebted to Mr. Debenham, the Town Clerk, and to Mr. Marshall, the Deputy Town Clerk, for the assistance which they have given me.

I also wish to very gratefully acknowledge the assistance I have received from Mr. Ashurst, the Engineer and Surveyor, and from Mr. Macara, the Inspector of Nuisances, with whom I always work in most cordial co-operation.

My thanks are also due to you, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors, for the very courteous way that you have always received me.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,

HENRY E. MAY,

M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the City of St. Alban, for the Year 1920.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the City of St. Alban.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the work of my department during the year 1920.

Throughout the year frequent inspections of premises in the City were made for the detection of nuisances, and wherever these were found, the necessary steps for their abatement were immediately taken.

The sanitary defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 809, and 253 preliminary notices were served in connection. Included in these figures are 292 sanitary defects and 42 notices following upon the visitations and inspection of 133 houses under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, details of which are shown in tabulated form in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. (See page 32).

It is satisfactory to record that all such remedial work as was required to be done was carried out without the institution of legal proceedings, and also that one statutory notice only was served.

The following summary gives particulars of work relative to the defects and nuisances dealt with, other than those detailed under the Housing and Town Planning Acts:—

Walls, damp and defective, remedied	...	...	20
Roofs, spouting and downpipes, repaired	...	...	57
Floors and ceilings, repaired	...	...	16
Windows repaired	...	...	12
Water closets repaired	...	...	21
Cisterns and flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	64

Drains repaired and unstopped	...	...	...	49
Drains tested by smoke	...	...	...	4
Ventilating and waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	15
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	14
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	125
Dustbins, dust receptacles, defective, remedied	...	...	...	98
Birds and animals improperly kept, removed, cases	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of manure, etc., removed	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous nuisances, removed	...	...	...	16

Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920. There were twelve applications received for certificates under this Act. In respect of eleven of these, satisfaction was obtained, and as to the twelfth, the work is in hand, and will shortly be completed.

It is pleasing to note that the remedial work done in each case was carried out without the necessity of the Sanitary Authority having to grant the certificates applied for, and also, that the applicants were thereby relieved of what might have led to legal proceedings being taken in the County Court.

A periodical inspection was made of the factories, workshops and workplaces in the City. There were 28 sanitary defects found, but these were quickly rectified upon notice being given to the occupiers. One notice only was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories following on his inspections.

There were 590 loads of liquid sewage removed from 125 cesspools and deposited on farm land outside the City.

There is a daily collection of shop and house refuse in the shopping centre of the City, and a weekly one in all other parts, and is made in covered carts built specially for the purpose. Approximately there was 4260 tons of refuse collected during the year and removed to the Electricity Works and there burned in the destructor provided by the Company.

The premises in connection with 83 cases of infectious diseases were fumigated, and the infected bedding, clothing and other articles removed for disinfection by the disinfector at the Sisters' Hospital.

There is one registered common lodging house in the City. It was frequently visited, and found to be clean and well kept.

There are 12 slaughterhouses in the City. These were visited frequently, and found in good condition.

The Saturday Market was visited regularly and inspection made of the meat, fish and other food exposed for sale.

The carcases of two heifers, with the organs and offal thereof, two fore-quarters of a cow, two flanks of a bullock, four trunks of lamb, and two trunks of mutton were surrendered, condemned and destroyed as unfit for food.

Also, in eighteen different lots and shops in the City the following articles and quantities of food were surrendered, condemned and destroyed as unfit for food:—

Articles	Quantity	Articles	lbs.
Compressed Beef	... 6 tins	Bacon	...
Condensed Milk	... 69 tins	Beef	...
Figs ...	... 3 bags	Beef Sausages	...
Fish ...	... 5 boxes	Butter	...
Jersey Potatoes	... 1 barrel	Figs...	...
Rabbits	... 1 case	Mutton	...
Red Salmon ...	... 2 tins	Sheeps' Hearts	...
Sardines	... 3 tins		30
Tomatoes	... 40 tins		

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were visited and found to be in a satisfactory condition. At the end of the year there were 32 persons registered.

There are 30 Bakehouses in the City, 4 of which are factories. Four of these were closed throughout the year, and one other was in use temporarily for a few weeks only. The Bakehouses in use were all kept in good condition.

Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 72 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

The samples collected were 49 of milk, 2 each of cream, preserved cream, butter, margarine, Glauber salts, Epsom salts and vinegar, and one each of comphorated oil, liquorice powder, golden syrup, strawberry jam, rice, sago, Demerara sugar, cocoa and lard.

The Public Analyst reported that 67 of these were genuine, and 5 not so. Of these reported against, 3 were of milk and 1 each of Glauber salts and golden syrup.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect to four of these samples, but on the suggestion of the Public Analyst no such proceedings were taken, in the fifth, which was that of milk containing water in excess to the extent of 10·6 per cent., because the fat per centage was so high that even with the water added the milk was well over the standard as far as milk fat was concerned. Another sample of milk taken later from the same vendor proved satisfactory.

The vendor of one of the milk samples was summoned for selling milk deficient in milk fat to the extent of approximately 13·7 per cent. It was considered by the Court that the justice of the case would be met with by the defendant paying the the costs, £5 5s.

The vendor of one of the other milk samples was also summoned for selling milk deficient in milk fat to the extent of approximately 12 per cent., but the summons was dismissed

as the Magistrates were satisfied that the warranty had been proved, and that the milk had been sold in the same condition as it was received.

The vendor of the Glauber salts was summoned for selling Glauber salts containing lead in excess to the extent of nine parts per million. The defendant relied upon a warranty which stated "We guarantee every article labelled 'B.P.' to comply with official requirements as far as possible." The Justices were of the opinion the words "as far as possible" neutralised the guarantee, and ruled that, although they were satisfied that defendant sold the salts in exactly the same condition as he received them, believing them to be genuine, the guarantee was not sufficient. The defendant was accordingly convicted, and fined an inclusive fine of forty shillings.

The golden syrup contained 79 per cent. of glucose or starched syrup, and only 21 per cent. of cane syrup. The vendor was summoned for selling the adulterated article, but the Justices, feeling the evidence given was doubtful, dismissed the summons.

Under the Milk and Cream Regulations, 49 samples of milk, 2 of cream, and 2 of preserved cream were submitted to the Public Analyst.

All these were reported as having conformed to the conditions specified by these regulations.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
A. SIMPSON MACARA,
Sanitary Inspector.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the City of St. Albans.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1920.

Weekly inspection of the cattle exposed for sale in the Cattle Market has been carried out, particular attention being paid for the presence of any cattle, sheep or pigs showing symptoms of Foot and Mouth Disease. I regret to say the Council has no power of dealing with animals exposed for sale in the last stages of wasting diseases.

Parasitic Mange.—Detention notices were served in two cases, involving 4 animals. These animals were treated and, when cured, the necessary disinfection carried out. The weekly reports to Ministry of Agriculture and City Corporation were duly sent in.

Rabies.—Several visits were made to dogs whose owners suspected the presence of Rabies, but in no case were the symptoms those of Rabies. A post-mortem was carried out on one dog sent to me by the police, which was negative.

Cows and Cowsheds.—The general health and condition of the cows have been good; the sheds are kept moderately clean, and the necessary whitewashing has been carried out. The necessary re-drainage of one set of cowsheds has been carried out. The number of cows kept averages 130.

Milk.—Six special samples of milk have been sent for microscopical examination for the diagnosis of tuberculosis of the udder. All six proved negative.

Meat Inspection.—Periodic visits have been made, in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector, to the Saturday Market, and inspection made of the meat, etc., exposed for sale.

Visits have also been made to slaughter-houses, and the following condemned: the whole carcase and offal of two beasts owing to generalised tuberculosis; also certain portions of carcases and offal.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE ELMES, F.R.C.V.S.